

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JUN 12 2008

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-42 (Canceled).

43. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a custom prosthetic interbody spinal implant for insertion into between two vertebrae of a patient comprising:

a. obtaining information about the site of implant for the prosthetic implant, said site including a space between at least two vertebrae of the patient;

b. manually and/or entering said obtained information, electronically entering said obtained information, and combinations thereof about said site for processing by at least one data processor;

c. processing said manually and/or entered information, said electronically entered information, and combinations thereof by said at least one data processor to generate data for a multi-dimensional prosthetic implant for insertion between two vertebrae;

d) at least partially transferring said generated data for a multi-dimensional prosthetic implant to a forming machine that is used to at least partially form said prosthetic implant;

e) at least partially forming said prosthetic implant by said forming machine, said prosthetic implant selected from the group consisting of an implant that substitutes for an intervertebral disc, a spacer to be positioned between two vertebrae, and combinations thereof; and,

f) generating history information pertaining to said prosthetic implant, said information including the materials used to form the prosthetic implant, the size and shape information used to form the prosthetic implant, the internal features of said prosthetic implant, the type of additives included on and/or in said prosthetic implant, cavities included in the prosthetic

implant, surface features of the prosthetic implant, connectors included on the prosthetic implant, secondary structures included in the prosthetic implant, frame and/or support structures used to at least partially form the prosthetic implant, the day and/or time the prosthetic implant was manufactured, the patient's name, medical facility names, the physician names, the medical procedure used to insert the prosthetic implant, the location within the patient's body the prosthetic implant is to be inserted, the date of implant of the prosthetic implant, the machine used to manufacture the prosthetic implant, the machine and/or name of individual used to generate the data for the prosthetic implant, additives included in the prosthetic implant, modifications to the prosthetic implant, approval codes or signatures, and combinations thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said step of obtaining information is at least partially obtained mechanically, chemically, electronically, and combinations thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said step of at least partially obtaining information electronically includes obtaining information by an ultrasonic device, a sound wave device, a magnetic wave device, an electromagnetic wave device, a heat detecting device, a camera, a scope, and combinations thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said prosthetic device is at least partially formed of a biocompatible material.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said step of at least partially forming said prosthetic implant includes forming a material in said forming machine having a shape that is substantially similar to at least a portion of the multi-dimensional prosthetic implant generated by said at least one data processor.

48. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein prosthetic device is formed of a material that is at least partially bioabsorbable.

49. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein prosthetic device is formed of a material that is at least partially moldable.

50. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein prosthetic device is formed of a material that includes at least one location marker.

51. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein prosthetic device is formed of a material that includes at least one biological additive.

52. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein prosthetic device is at least partially coated with at least one biological additive.

53. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein prosthetic device includes at least one cavity, at least one outer wall opening, and combinations thereof.

54. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, including the step of comparing said generated data for a multi-dimensional prosthetic implant to said obtained information about the site of implant, and further including the step of modifying said generated data when required.

55. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said forming machine including at least one mold cavity that can be varied in size, shape and combinations thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said mold cavity is varied based at least partially on said generated data.

57. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said at least one data processor generates data that can be used to create at least one graphical representation of said prosthetic implant.

58. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, including the step of manually modifying said generated data.

59. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said step of transferring at least a portion of the generated information to a molding machine includes a transmission device selected from the group consisting of wires, cables, electromagnetic waves, and

combinations thereof.

60. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, including the steps of flowing said at least one type of moldable compound into said forming machine, at least partially forming said prosthetic implant in said forming machine, and hardening at least a portion of said moldable compound.

61. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 50, wherein said moldable compound is at least partially hardened by exposure to heat, radiation, catalysts, chemical reactants, electromagnetic waves, sound waves, and combinations thereof.

62. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 50, wherein said moldable compound includes a material selected from the group consisting of bone, cartilage, calcium-phosphate compounds, ceramics, metals; polymers, co-polymers, resins, thermoplastics, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 63 (Canceled).

64. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 53, including the step of including readable information on said prosthetic implant, said readable information including at least a portion of said history information.

65. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said prosthetic implant is at least partially formed on or about at least one preexisting structure.

66. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 43, including the step of modifying at least a portion of said prosthetic implant after said prosthetic implant has been removed from said forming machine, said step of modifying including labeling, cutting, smoothing, minor sizing, disinfecting, etching, and combinations thereof.

67. (New) A method for producing a custom prosthetic that is substantially similar to at least a portion of bone in a body of a patient comprising:

a. obtaining information about the site of implant for the prosthetic implant and the bone that exists in the site of the implant or which exists in a site similar to the site of the implant, said step of at least partially obtaining information includes obtaining information by an ultrasonic device, a sound wave device, a magnetic wave device, an electromagnetic wave device, a heat detecting device, a camera, a scope, and combinations thereof;

b. manually entering said obtained information, electronically entering said obtained information, and combinations thereof about said site for processing by at least one data processor;

c. processing said manually entered information, said electronically entered information, and combinations thereof by said at least one data processor to generate data for a multi-dimensional prosthetic implant;

d) at least partially transferring said generated data for a multi-dimensional prosthetic implant to a forming machine that is used to at least partially form said prosthetic implant;

e) at least partially forming said prosthetic implant by said forming machine, said prosthetic implant selected from the group consisting of an implant that is a substitute for a complete bone or a portion of a bone, said prosthetic implant at least partially formed on or about at least one preexisting structure, said bone selected from the group consisting of acromion, atlas, axis, calcaneus, carpus, clavicle, coccyx, epicondyle, epitrochlea, femur, fibula, frontal bone, greater trochanter, humerus, ilium, ischium, mandible, maxilla, metacarpus, metatarsus, occipital bone, olecranon, parietal bone, patella, phalanx, radius, ribs, sacrum, scapula, sternum, talus, tarsus, temporal bone, tibia, ulna, or zygomatic bone, said step of at least partially forming said prosthetic implant includes forming a material in said forming machine having a shape that is substantially similar to at least a portion of the multi-dimensional prosthetic implant generated by said at least one data processor; and,

f) generating history information pertaining to said prosthetic implant, said information including the materials used to form the prosthetic implant, the size and shape information used to form the prosthetic implant, the internal features of said prosthetic implant, the type of additives included on and/or in said prosthetic implant, cavities included in the prosthetic implant, surface features of the prosthetic implant, connectors included on the prosthetic implant, secondary structures included in the prosthetic implant, frame and/or support structures used to at least partially form the prosthetic implant, the day and/or time the prosthetic implant was manufactured, the patient's name, medical facility names, the physician names, the medical procedure used to insert the prosthetic implant, the location within the patient's body the prosthetic

implant is to be inserted, the date of implant of the prosthetic implant, the machine used to manufacture the prosthetic implant, the machine and/or name of the individual used to generate the data for the prosthetic implant, additives included in the prosthetic implant, modifications to the prosthetic implant, approval codes or signatures, and combinations thereof.